REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for reviewing the present application.

Applicant advises that a change of correspondence address form is being filed concurrently herewith and kindly requests that the Office amend its records to indicate same. Applicant also advises that the Attorney Docket number for the present application has changed, and indicated on page 1 of this paper, and kindly requests that the Office also amend its records to indicate this change.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification is amending correcting several typographical errors. No new subject matter is believed to have been added by way of these amendments.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 is amended expanding the acronym "DTE", and to clarify the nature of the connection between the signal lines and the transceivers through the switches. Claim 1 is also amended to include the subject matter of previous claims 4 and 5. Accordingly, claims 4 and 5 are hereby cancelled.

Claim 6 is amending changing its dependency to claim 1.

Claim 8 is amended inserting a period that was inadvertently omitted at the end of the claim.

Claim 9 is amended consistent with those amendments made to claim 1.

Claim 15 is amended to include the signal lines recited in claims 1 and 9, and to include subject matter that was previously presented in claims 4 and 5.

No new subject matter is believed to have been added by way of these amendments.

Claim Objections

The claims have been objected to for not including the "full-text definitions" for acronyms such as DTE and DCE. Applicant advises that the acronyms DTE and DCE are expanded in amended claim 1, their first instance in the claims, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant believes that such amendments overcome the Examiner's objections.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 11 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0069300 to Pascolini.

Independent claims 1, 9 and 15 are amended as indicated above, and Applicant respectfully submits that Pascolini does not teach every element of amended claims 1, 9 and 15, and as such cannot anticipate.

Pascolini teaches a network interface port that can selectively connect a computer to different types of networks such as PSTN, Token ring, Ethernet etc. As shown in Figure 2, a network interface (210) is connected to a series of modules (225) that are associated with respective network formats, through a set of switches (230n). Another set of switches (230s) connect the modules (225) to the communication bus 105. When the network interface (210) in connected to a particular network, a program stored in memory (245) checks the signal leads to determine which pins are active. Certain pin combinations correspond to certain network types, and the switches are activated accordingly.

Amended claim 1, in part includes an interface controller that provides a control signal to operate the switches to connect the signal lines to certain transceivers. A protocol identifier provides an identification signal to the interface controller that is indicative of the selected protocol. Although Pascolini teaches a control signal operating the switches, the control signal needs to first check which pins are active, and then make a determination as to which module to connect. Therefore, clearly, Pascolini does not teach an identification signal as recited in amended claim 1, since the program must determine which protocol is present and is not provided with such information. Accordingly, Pascolini does not teach every element of claim 1 and thus cannot anticipate.

The protocol identifier was previously the subject matter of claim 5. The Examiner believes that Pascolini teaches such an identifier since the program determines which leads are active. Applicant respectfully disagrees. As Applicant notes above, Pascolini does teach a control signal, however this control signal is not responsive to a protocol identifier but rather requires an initial check of each pin to see which ones are active. Pascolini simply does not contemplate using such a protocol identifier. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Pascolini does not teach the subject matter of claim 5, which is now part of amended claim 1, and as such Pascolini does not anticipate amended claim 1.

Applicant wishes to add that such a protocol identifier provides a clear improvement to the circuit taught by Pascolini. By avoiding the steps of checking each pin and then determining which protocol is required, such inherent inefficiencies are avoided. Therefore, not only is claim 1 believed to not be anticipated by Pascolini, Applicant submits that amended claim 1 also patentably distinguishes over Pascolini.

Claim 2 being dependent on amended claim 1 is also believed to not be anticipated.

Claims 9 and 15 are amended as noted above, and include the protocol identifier discussed above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, arguments with respect to claim 1 equally apply to amended independent claims 9 and 15.

Claims 10 and 11, being dependent on amended claim 9 are also believed to not be anticipated.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 4, 5, 6 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pascolini in view of Derfler. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as follows.

The subject matter of claims 4 and 5 are now part of amended claim 1, therefore arguments thereto now apply to amended claim 1. Claims 3 and 6 are dependent on claim 1, and claim 12 is dependent on claim 9. As shown above, Applicant believes that Pascolini does not anticipate amended claims 1 and 9. Therefore, Derfler must at least teach what is missing from Pascolini. Applicant respectfully submits that Derfler does not teach what is missing from Pascolini and as such, claims 1, 3, 6 and 12 are patentably distinguished over the combination of Pascolini and Derfler.

Derfler teaches specific network protocols as they pertain to certain independent claims. However, Derfler does not teach a DTE, interface system or multi-protocol port as recited in claims 1, 9 and 15. In particular, Derfler does not teach a protocol identifier that is used to provide an identification signal to an interface controller (which is missing from Pascolini). In fact Derfler is entirely silent as to multi-protocol interfaces. Therefore, for at least that reason, claims 1, 9 and 15, and thus claims 3, 6 and 12, dependent thereon patentably distinguish over Pascolini in view of Derfler.

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Claims 7, 8, 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pascolini in view of Yu (US Patent No. 5,081,627). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as follows.

Claims 7, 8, 13 and 14, are dependent on either amended claim 1 or amended claim 9, which Applicant believes distinguish over Pascolini. Therefore, not only must Yu teach the subject matter of claims 7, 8, 13 and 14, but also what is missing from Pascolini. Applicant respectfully submits that Yu does not teach what is missing from Pascolini and as such claims 7, 8, 13 and 14 are patentably distinguished over Pascolini in view of Yu.
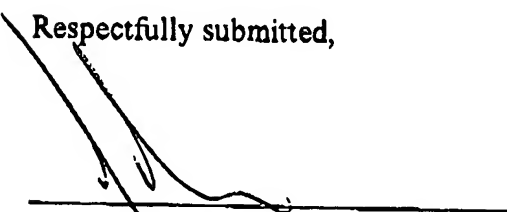
Yu teaches a diagnostic monitoring apparatus for a network connection cable. However, Yu does not teach a protocol identifier that is used to provide an identification signal to an interface controller, which is missing from Pascolini. Yu is entirely silent in that regard. Therefore, for at least that reason, claims 8, 13 and 14 are believed to be patentably distinguished over Pascolini in view of Yu.

Summary

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims, namely claims 1-3, and 6-15 patentably distinguish over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and as such are in condition for allowance.

Applicant requests early reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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